

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
Southern Nevada District Manager's Report
Mary Jo Rugwell, District Manager
July 19-20, 2012

National BLM/DOI:

WASHINGTON, D.C. and SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, CA – In response to President Obama's call to expand opportunities for summer employment for young people and connect them with the great outdoors, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Nancy Sutley today highlighted summer work opportunities for more than 20,000 young people, ages 15-25, in national forests, national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands.

Salazar and Sutley are kicking off the summer work season at an event in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in California, where they are being joined by members of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and the California Conservation Corps, representing the many corps partners working with USDA and DOI to provide summer work and training opportunities for young people. <http://on.doi.gov/JYaUPO>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of its responsibility to manage and protect wild horses and burros, the Bureau of Land Management is soliciting bids for new long-term pasture facilities – located in the continental United States west of the Mississippi River – that provide a free-roaming environment. The solicitation is for one or more pasture facilities accommodating 800 to 2,000 wild horses. Each pasture facility must be able to provide humane care for a one-year period, with a renewal option under BLM contract for a five- to 10-year period. The BLM may require having one or two public and/or media tours hosted by agency staff and the contractor during the life of the contract. The solicitation is open until August 1, 2012, and is 100 percent set aside for small businesses under the North American Industry Classification System. <http://on.doi.gov/LTYjMI>

Secretary Salazar Hosts Tourism Round Table at Springs Preserve -- Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Senator Harry Reid hosted a travel and tourism round table meeting with Governor Brian Sandoval, and local business leaders in Las Vegas, to hear ideas about how the U.S. government can take additional steps to attract international and domestic visitors to the area. The Secretary and the Senator later joined Stephen Cloobek, head of Brand USA, in a press conference where they stressed the importance of the United States improving the Visa process and being more welcoming to visitors from abroad. Both Salazar and Reid said they want the US to be the top destination for tourism in the world. If you want to learn more about the press conference, check it out here: http://youtu.be/5_m6n_PNV34

Southern Nevada District Office (SNDO):

BLM Sells 480 acres in Henderson, netting \$10.56 Million--The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) generated \$10,560,000.00, on June 4, through the sale of 480 acres of public land in southeast Henderson, Nev. by modified competitive sealed bid sale. The high bidder, Silver State Land LLC, was the sole bidder on the parcel, which was sold under the authority of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA).

Bidding started at fair market value of \$10,560,000.00. Silver State Land LLC and its representatives were the only bidders present, and their sealed-bid was the only sealed bid received containing the required 20 percent deposit of \$2,112,000. Silver State Land LLC has until December 3, 2012, which is 180 days from the date of the sale, to submit the remainder of the bid payment.

The BLM determined a modified competitive sale was appropriate to assure equitable distribution of land among purchasers or to recognize equitable considerations or public policies. A modified competitive sale designates a bidder that will have the right to meet the highest bid. The designated bidder for this sale was Silver State Land LLC. The City of Henderson requested the BLM to hold a modified competitive sale and to select Silver State Land LLC as the designated bidder. BLM published a Notice of Realty Action in the April 4 Federal Register opening public comments.

Funds generated through the sale of public land under SNPLMA are used for parks, trails and natural areas; capital improvements; conservation initiatives; purchase of environmentally sensitive lands; eastern Nevada landscape restoration projects, hazardous fuels reduction, multi-species habitat conservation projects, and projects. Additionally, 10 percent of the funds raised will go to the Southern Nevada Water Authority and five percent will go to the Nevada State General Education Fund.

Secretary Salazar Turns up the Heat in Las Vegas -- The Secretary literally blew into Southern Nevada on an unusually chilly day in May to “flip the switch” on the first large-scale commercial solar energy project permitted on public land. As the winds gusted and the tent howled, the Secretary in his signature cowboy hat and bolo announced the start of the renewable energy revolution! The Secretary, and former BLM Director Bob Abbey, remarked on their pride in the historic milestone. The Silver State North solar project, near Primm, is a 50-megawatt plant that will use photovoltaic technology to generate enough power for about 9,000 Nevada homes. Secretary Salazar went on to talk about being tasked with President Obama’s all-of-the above energy strategy, and how honored he was the Department is making believers out of the skeptics.

“The future of this world is in countries that lead in renewable energy,” said Secretary Salazar.

The Southern Nevada District Fire and Law Enforcement Roll into Hoggard Elementary --

The BLM Southern Nevada District Office (SNDO) participated in Career on Wheels at Mabel Hoggard Magnet Elementary School. The students learned about the vehicles BLM uses to fight fire and protect natural resources. One of the main lessons was about fire prevention. Vanessa Marquez and Ryan Cochran wowed the students while showing them the various tools and apparatus fire fighters use during suppression. Of course, the students were most excited about climbing in and around the fire truck. Likewise, Law Enforcement Officer, Jarrod Vigness entertained and educated kindergarten through fifth graders about his job and the vehicle he uses to do it. All in all, the students had a great time learning about the wheels BLM uses in amazing careers. Check out the SNDO Video here: <http://on.doi.gov/HFF87j>. In addition to the Career on Wheels event, SNDO staff also participated in Hoggard’s career week by speaking to students in the class room.

Southern Nevada Joins Congressman Heck for Career Fair -- The Southern Nevada District participated in a career fair sponsored by Congressman Heck. Staff representatives provided information on positions throughout the BLM and outlined the hiring process to members of the public. Congressman Heck felt the career fair was a success and acknowledged BLM’s professionalism.

Division of Fire and Aviation:

Southern Nevada Fire Restrictions Announced --The BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Nevada Division of Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service are implementing Southern Nevada fire restrictions due to the increased potential for wildland fires.

The fire restrictions prohibit:

Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except a portable stove using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel;

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle;

Welding, or operating an acetylene torch with open flames, except by permit;

Using, or causing to be used, any explosive, except by permit;

Using fireworks or firing a tracer

Operating an off road vehicle without a spark arrestor

BLM is prohibiting the use of steel jacket ammunition and explosive targets as they are known fire starters. The BLM is also prohibiting campfires and/or charcoal barbecues in the Red Rock Hosted Campground and any established picnic areas.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area will allow wood or charcoal fires in grills of developed picnic areas; campfires with wood or charcoal burning devices on the shoreline where natural vegetation is at least 100 feet from the shoreline; barbecue grills on private boats outside the harbors of Lake Mead and Lake Mohave; rental boats are authorized to use barbecues attached to vessel if allowed under rental boat agreement; all vessel barbecue fires must be at least 100 feet away from shoreline vegetation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will only allow campfires in the fire rings at the Desert Pass Campground on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, visitors to the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge may use fire for cooking in the grills at the day use area.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Division:

SNPLMA Staff Cut Ribbon on Floyd Lam Park Trail -- On Saturday, April 7, staff from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Division attended the Spring Fling and ribbon-cutting event at the City of Las Vegas-managed Floyd Lamb Park. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by City Councilman Steve Ross, with an able assist from Gale Fraser of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFC) and Karla Norris of the SNPLMA Division. The ceremony marked the completion of construction on a \$24 million dollar flood detention basin, paid for by the CCRFC and a 4.3 mile trail, constructed at a cost of \$2.5 million, paid for by proceeds generated under SNPLMA land sales. The trail made use of the land along the outside of the detention basin and was beautified by pedestrian bridges, landscaping, benches, picnic and shade structures and interpretive kiosks. To date, SNPLMA has generated over 3.3 billion dollars in revenue and funded over 1175 projects across the State of Nevada.

Field Offices

Red Rock/Sloan Field Office:

Red Rock Canyon Campground to Close until Labor Day Weekend -- Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area's developed campground -- Red Rock Campground -- is scheduled to temporarily close from May 29 to August 30, 2012 during this low-usage period.

The Red Rock Campground is located within Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area approximately two miles east of the visitor center on State Route 159 (West Charleston Boulevard) and is the only developed campground within the conservation area.

Camping is allowed on BLM managed public land outside of the Las Vegas Valley for up to two weeks without charge. Popular primitive (no facilities) sites include Bitter Spring Back Country Byway, Gold Butte Back Country Byway, Knob Hill, Virgin Mountains, Christmas Tree Pass and Logandale Trails System.

Yucca Lands Spot on Big Tree Register -- Already known as a crown jewel for the National Landscape Conservation System, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is the proud recipient of yet another award. This time, the crowning achievement is inclusion on Nevada's

Big Tree Register with a Mojave yucca, *Yucca schidigera*. The yucca is 20-feet-tall with a 61 inch circumference, and is located near the escarpment west of Oliver Ranch.

Red Rock Canyon Wins tripadvisor Award -- While only the top three winners stand on the podium at the Olympics, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is celebrating a big win with a Certificate of Excellence awarded by tripadvisor.

With a rating of four and half out of five stars and ranking 10th out of 524 attractions in Las Vegas, Red Rock triumphs yet again! Of almost 1,640 reviews, more than 1,210 gave Red Rock a rating of excellent and 776 photos have been posted.

Red Rock Canyon was designated as Nevada's first National Conservation Area and is located 17 miles west of the Las Vegas Strip on Charleston Boulevard/State Route 159. In marked contrast to a town geared to entertainment and gaming, Red Rock Canyon offers enticements of a different nature including a 13-mile scenic drive, hiking trails, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, road biking, picnic areas, nature observing and LEED certified visitor center.

Mr. Weekly Goes to Red Rock Canyon -- Clark County Commissioner, Lawrence Weekly, toured Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area as a part of the Southern Nevada District's effort to collaboratively engage the urban community. BLM staff conducted the tour, and briefed the Commissioner on the new visitor center and programs at Red Rock. Commissioner Weekly was impressed with the improvements and amenities at Red Rock, and he looks forward to working with BLM to engage his District in activities on BLM-managed land. The Commissioner's tour and briefing are part of the Southern Nevada District's proactive targeted approach to outreach and collaborative engagement. SNDO is dedicated to increasing diversity in District-wide programs and initiatives particularly in underserved and underrepresented communities.

Las Vegas Field Office:

Lone Mountain, Not so Lonely Anymore -- On April 19, with a news helicopter circling overhead, the Southern Nevada District Office joined the City of Las Vegas and Clark County to celebrate the opening of the extension of Lone Mountain Road west of the 215. Southern Nevada worked with the city to allow additional access to the Cliff Shadows community while ensuring continued safe access for gravel trucks to the Lone Mountain community pit.

Pahrump Field Office/Renewable Energy Coordination Office:

Pahrump Field Office Helps Community Celebrate Earth Day -- The Pahrump Field Office, the Renewable Energy Coordination Office, Law Enforcement, and the Division of Fire participated in Nye County's -Town of Pahrump's Earth Day on April 21st. Sprocket, the famous adopted burro, and a district fire engine accompanied BLM staff and fascinated the crowd. BLM had informational tables and displays including recreation, regional geology, mining activities, wild horse and burro, cultural resources, and species status species management. Staff from the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service also attended the event.